

WILLARD IS EX-CHAMPION BECAUSE HE WON'T FIGHT

Public No Longer Considers Big Jess Champion Because No Man Can Hold a Title for Several Years Without Defending It—Evidently He Is Afraid of the Jack Dempsey Wallop Which Put Fulton and Carl Morris Away Quickly.

By Robert Edgren.

JESS WILLARD is ex-heavyweight champion of the world. No, Jess hasn't been whipped. Not yet.

And it's likely he never will be. For he won't fight. That is why he has become an ex-champion.

No man can hold a championship title for several years without defending it.

Jess may consider himself champion. But the public doesn't. And after all, in ring affairs it is the public's opinion that counts.

Jess Willard won the heavyweight championship in a hard fought twenty-six rounds at Havana, April 5, 1915.

That is nearly four years ago. He has had many challengers and many offers since then, but he has not fought once in defense of the championship. He boxed ten rounds with Frank Moran, but that can be thrown out. It was a no-decision affair, and so cannot possibly be considered a championship contest.

Once he "accepted" a match with Fred Fulton. But the whole affair looked "creaky." A circus friend of Willard's arranged it, got a tremendous lot of publicity, and finally talked the match out of existence.

There was talk of a Willard-Fulton match "for the Red Cross." Fulton was willing. Willard bluffed, as usual, and nothing came of it. Then Dempsey knocked Fulton out in fourteen and three-fifths seconds.

Which must have been a great relief to Willard.

Except—of course—that raised a new challenger to prominence. Willard has no possible excuse for not fighting Dempsey, unless he comes right out with a candid announcement that he has retired and never will defend his title.

If he should fight Dempsey, the chances are he would be knocked out. Willard has lived too softly since he became champion to be in good fighting condition. He is too fond of liquid refreshments. Liquor and fighting condition never went well together. A few weeks ago Dempsey knocked out big Carl Morris in one round with a terrific punch in the body. Morris never was in Willard's class as a boxer or fighter, but he was a big, tough fellow, game and enduring, and not given to any form of dissipation. It is likely Morris could take a harder wallop in the body than Willard can take now.

Willard's reluctance to defend his title against the hard-hitting Dempsey probably shows that Jess has good judgment.

"Fighting Champions"—All but Jess.

Refusing to defend the heavyweight title automatically relieves Willard of the crown. There is no precedent in the history of the ring for such action, or lack of action.

John L. Sullivan fought a ring battle within ten weeks after knocking out Paddy Ryan. Until John L. had passed his prime he fought as often as any champion suggested a fight.

Jim Corbett fought Charlie Mitchell a year and four months after he beat Sullivan for the world's championship. Bob Fitzsimmons fought Jim Corbett on the following Nov. 3. Five months was a long enough layoff for Fitzsimmons before fighting the toughest rival on the map. In the four years Jess was champion, Jeffries defended his title ten times against ten different opponents. In his four years Willard has boxed one no-decision bout.

After Jeffries had announced his retirement, Tommy Burns was the next real world's champion. He won the title by beating the champion of the other boxing countries. Burns was a busy champion. He fought Squire of Australia, Moir of England, Dick Croker's Irish champion, Larue, and fought Jack Johnson, his closest rival from America, all within a few months. He was a real champion while he lasted—a small man with the heart of a giant.

Jack Johnson, picked a few soft ones after beating Burns, but he did box five bouts within the next year, the fifth being with Stanley Ketchel, ten months after winning the title. Although a middleweight, Ketchel was anything but "soft." He stood Johnson on his head with one well placed hook in the twelfth round and the referee connected with holding. Johnson won the fight but for over-eagerness to finish the big black champion.

With all this fighting activity of former titleholders as a good example, Jess Willard has no excuse for calling himself "champion" until he has long white whiskers. If fat has taken away his endurance, or if he feels that his stomach is no longer in condition to endure such a punch as Jack Dempsey can deliver, it is up to him to announce his retirement. The public will respect him more than it does while Jess claims a title that he is so extremely reluctant to defend.

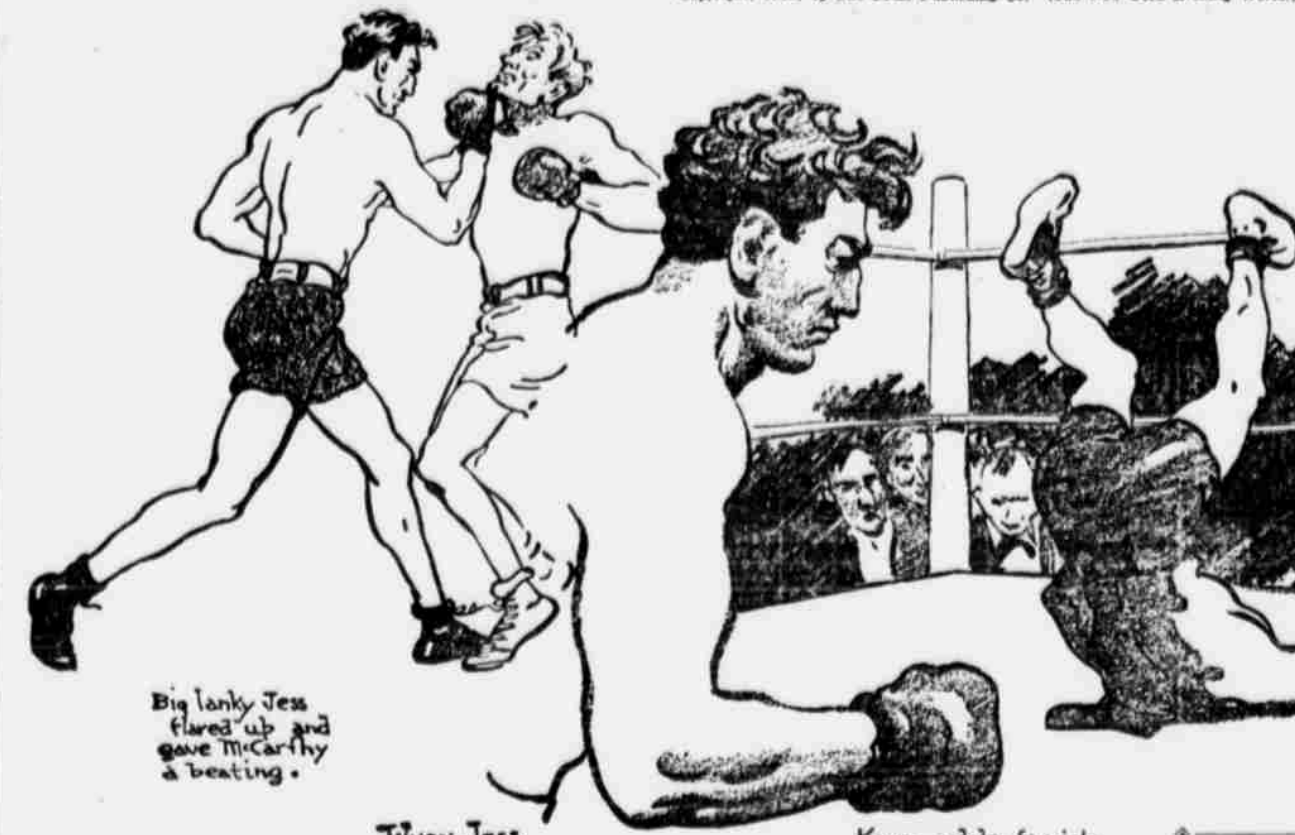
Willard's change of heart came just after he knocked out Johnson in that great fight at Havana. Two days after the fight he told me his plans. He said that he never would fight again, but that he would make as much money as he could in the next year or so on the stage, and then retire. He didn't intend to announce his retirement at once, although he thought he had "done enough" in defeating Johnson.

Apparently Willard knew his own mind at that time—except that later, when he learned the financial possibilities connected with holding a championship title, he forgot all about retiring.

There would be more excuse for Willard if he was a champion by accident. But he was a real champion and a great champion on the day he whipped Johnson. With the sin-

BEST SPORTING PAGE IN NEW YORK IN THE DAYS WHEN WILLARD WAS A REAL FIGHTER

Copyright, 1919, by The Press Publishing Co. (The New York Evening World.)



Frazee Puts Over a Deal Which Strengthens Red Sox

Minor Leagues Still Trying to Straighten Out Their Troubles.

Baseball began to filter out the back door in New York to-day.

And Harry Frazee, pet enemy of Ben Johnson, had the best of a deal which makes the Boston Red Sox a strong contender for the American League pennant.

In Oscar Vitt, Frazee obtained a man who is generally recognized as the greatest third baseman in the game, and he surrendered only two men, both of whom he can spare very handsily. Harold Jarvis, while a second baseman of great ability, ranks below Barry or Shen, so the Red Sox suffer none from his loss.

The loss of Shorten doesn't hurt none, for Ed Harrow is still able to put one of baseball's greatest outfielders in the game, although every man swings from the off side of the plate.

The minor leagues were still holding forth to-day. Some territorial disputes probably will confront them and there is some gumshoeing going on. The minors, therefore, may take under their wing any new minors which want to start in defiance of the national association and exorcise the old draft privilege on them. The minors, therefore, busy combining the leagues they can muster.

In order to get arrangements down to as fine a point as possible, the minors have granted a classification to the Texas and Eastern Leagues, formerly B leagues. They also specified that one man may be drafted from the minors to the majors from each of the A's, of which there are now four—Western, Southern, Eastern and Texas. Drafting below that classification will continue as of old, with the stipulation that no additional agreements may be entered into.

The minors expected to-day to meet the National Commission, to devise a board to handle disputes between majors and minors.

Two more players signed contracts with the New York Giants yesterday. John Paul Jones and Ted Miller, both pitchers, Jones stopped over in New York on his way from Newport, where he was ministered out of the navy a day or two ago, to his home in Shreveport.

Malone Wins With Knockout. ST. PAUL, Minn., Jan. 17.—Tommy Sheehan of Chicago, was knocked out by Jack Malone of St. Paul, in the third round of a scheduled ten-round boxing contest here to-night. Mike Erbe of St. Paul, outpointed Johnny Ritchie of Chicago, in eight rounds, in the opinion of newspapermen.

Two eight-round main bouts and several preliminaries will be staged at the regular boxing show of the Armory A. A. of Jersey City tonight on Monday night. In the two star bouts, Jack Dempsey, twelve-time champion of New York, and Charlie Beecher, former amateur champion, boxed up with George Brown, another promising young New York brawler.

A new boxing club has been organized at Bayshore, N. Y. It is called the West Side A. C. and the members to George Brown of that city. The club will stage its shows at the Armory Theatre there. The opening entertainment will be held on Wednesday night. The final bout will be one of ten rounds between two champions, the retired lightweight, and Pete Harvey, former Olympic champion, who has been a professional boxer since 1914.



Golfers Who Raised \$300,000 For Red Cross on Links Receive Medals To-Night

Election of Officers and Jubilee Dinner Also at Big Chicago Gathering.

CHICAGO, Jan. 18.—Red Cross medals for golfers who aided in raising more than \$300,000 last summer will be awarded to-night at the annual meeting of the Western Golf Association, which will hold a jubilee dinner for the Red Cross golfers before re-electing officers and awarding the various championships.

More than one hundred and fifty delegates from South, East, North and West will attend the jubilee and vote for the re-election of President Charles F. Thompson of Chicago and his fellow officers, as there are no opponents.

A canvass of proxies and delegates already in Chicago indicated that the Western amateur championship would be awarded to the Sunset Hills Country Club of St. Louis. President Jesse L. Charlton and Edward Anheuser said they believed they had enough votes to get the tournament.

Wilbur H. Brooks, President of the Mayfield Country Club, Cleveland, likewise claimed enough votes to give the Western open championship to his club.

Among the golfers to receive Red Cross medals are National Champion Chick Evans, Warren K. Wood and Kenneth Edwards, Chicago amateurs; Bobby Jones, Atlanta, Southern amateur champion, and James Barnes, Colorado Springs, Walter Hagen, Detroit, and Jack Hutchinson and Bob McDonald, Chicago.

Mike Gibbons, the St. Paul middleweight, is now the manager of the boxing club which is staging bouts at the Auditorium in that city. Mike was granted a permit by the Boxing Commissioners who govern the boxing game at St. Paul and Minneapolis to bring off shows at St. Paul, and Mike held his first series of contests there last night.

Gibbons expects to box at his club as often as he can get opponents to meet him that will be good gate attractions.

Tom Gibbons will also meet the best light heavyweights at Mike's club that can be secured for him. Clay Turner may be one of them, as the Indian's home was formerly St. Paul.

Bill "Knockout" Brennan, the Chicago heavyweight, and Larry Williams of Bridgeport, Conn., according to Leo Flinn, have been signed up to meet in the main bout of seven rounds to a decision at the Central A. C. of Boston on the night of Jan. 27. If this is true, then Williams has evidently run out of his recent battle with Clay Turner, the Indian fighter, who John Jennings had looked at the Armory A. A. of Jersey City Heights on that night.

Clay Turner, the Indian light heavyweight, who knocked Al Martin, the draft movie fighter, to the seventh round at Scranton, Pa., on Thursday night, was matched last night to meet Bill Knott, the colored fighter, in six main rounds of ten rounds at the first boxing show of the Volstead A. C. of Buffalo on Monday night. Turner takes the place of Bartley Madden, who says he is too late on Norfolk. It ought to be a swinging battle.

Willie Jackson, the crack black lightweight, will do the show when tonight, he will take on Jack Russo, the New Orleans lightweight, for six rounds at the National A. C. of Philadelphia. Jackson cleaned up \$1,400 for his last fight, knocking Nip of St. Paul at the Municipal Boxing Club a few nights ago. Frank Hagley says the gate receipts amounted to over \$15,000. Benny Valzer also looks at the National A. C.

Tom Gibbons will be seen in a bout at the National A. C. of Philadelphia on Saturday evening, Jan. 25. Art Hansen, the Minneapolis fighter, has been signed up to meet Harry Madden, the New York heavyweight, for six rounds in the main event at the show. As Madden fought Larry Williams a draw at the same spot on New Year's afternoon, he and Gibbons ought to pack them in when they clash. They will box at midnight. This will be Gibbons' first real fight in a long time.

Reddy May, the Pennsylvania lightweight, is now boxed up for two more battles by his manager, Al Jones. His first will be with Harry Thompson of Kansas City for six rounds at Detroit on next Friday night, and his second with Pete Hartley, the durable Deane, for eight rounds at the show of the Treadon A. C. of Trenton, N. J., on the night of Feb. 1.

Ed "Kid" Lewis, the welterweight champion, and Fred Terry, the English boxer, and until recently civilian boxing instructor at one of Uncle Sam's camps in the West, have been booked up to clash in a twelve-round decision bout at the Central A. C. of Boston on Feb. 2. The men were to have fought at the same spot a few months ago, but the bout was put back on account of Young McLean's accident in a contest there.

Bill Mike and Tom Corrier, the English heavyweights, will have a national bout at the Central A. C. of Philadelphia last Saturday night, each receiving \$500 for their trouble. They each fought for 20 per cent. of the receipts, which gave them the above mentioned amount. The bout did not attract the large crowd of light from the officials thought it would.

Billy Gibbons, who is representing George McDonald, the fight promoter of England, in the country, has wired to Mike Gibbons asking him for his terms to run in England and fight Mike O'Brien, the American middleweight champion, in a seven-round bout. Gibbons says he won't believe the man's terms. He says he won't believe the man's terms. He says he won't believe the man's terms.

BASE STATE GOLFERS ASK FOR CHANGE IN STYMIE RULE

Want U. S. G. A. to Modify Regulations So That a Ball Within Foot of Cup May Be Lifted if It Interferes With Opponent's Shot.

BOSTON, Jan. 18.—Delegates at the annual meeting of the Massachusetts Golf Association here authorized the Secretary to write to the United States Golf Association recommending that the rule regarding the stymie be modified so that a ball within one foot of the cup shall be lifted if its position interferes with an opponent's shot.

Capt. Ted Meredith, one of the world's greatest middle distance runners, has been mustered out of the army and is now back home in Philadelphia. The 350-yard record holder entered the aviation service as a private, but rose in the same unit to be promoted to a Captaincy last August.

Eastern District High School defeated the Erasmus Hall High School basketball team by a score of 25 to 20 in a game for the Brooklyn Borough division championship at the 4th Regiment Armory.

The Barnard School basketball team forced the seventh straight victory by defeating the Ethical Culture School five in their annual basketball game on the former's court yesterday by the score of 23 to 19. It was a good example of the teams being about evenly matched, as the first half ended in a tie at 10 to 10.

Horace Mann defeated Hamilton Institute by a score of 20 to 19 in their annual basketball game on the former's court.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Jan. 18.—Yale's recently organized hockey team will open its season today when it crosses sticks with the United States Military Academy team at West Point. The soldiers are of unknown quality as far as the Blue is concerned, but judging from the strength of the Yale team, West Point is in for a hard game.

Manual Training High School gave the Erasmus Hall basketball team an expected beating at the Brooklyn Ice Palace last night. Despite the brilliant play of Erasmus Hall, the former champions went down to defeat by a score of 4 to 2. In another game Commercial High beat Erasmus Hall by a score of 2 to 0.

LEONARD AND DUNDEE TRAINING FOR BIG BOUT.

Penny Leonard and Johnny Dundee, who meet next Monday night in an eight-round bout promoted by the Newark Sportsman's Club in the First Regiment Armory in Newark, will finish training to-day. Both men have been preparing themselves for the contest in Billy Group's gymnasium in Harlem. Both fighters expect to put in their final sessions with their sparring partners—to the welcomer of the fight—on Monday night.

Monday they will devote themselves to light exercise, shadow boxing, some running, rope climbing, and such things to keep themselves in edge until the going sends them into a fight.

Billy Group, who is an excellent judge of a boxer's physical condition, has been looking after Leonard and Dundee all in fine fettle.

I have never seen Leonard in better fettle than he is now. He is in better shape than he has been in a long time. He is in better shape than he has been in a long time. He is in better shape than he has been in a long time.

"In the matter of physical condition, the champion hasn't a thing on the box. He is in better shape than he has been in a long time. He is in better shape than he has been in a long time. He is in better shape than he has been in a long time."

Bowling Strikes By Tack and Spares

Metropolitans Two-Time Winners in American National Tourney.

The Metropolitans were a two-time winner in the American national tournament at the White Elephant alleys last night. The teams that they met and defeated were the crack Rosedale five of this city and the Floral Heights five of New Jersey. They won the first game rather easily from the Floral Heights, but they had to extend themselves when they met the Rosedale. Had it not been for three spares and Wittrock, the high average man of the tournament, rolled away below his average, the Rosedale might have been returning the win.

Only twenty-two pins separated the two teams at the end of the tenth frame. The scores: First game—Metropolitans 496, Floral Heights 407; second game—Rosedale 915, Floral Heights 853; third game—Rosedale 899, Metropolitans 921.

No games are scheduled to be rolled in this tournament until next Tuesday evening, when the Rosedale, Spartan and Hudson fives are to bowl.

Eight games are scheduled to roll in the United Bowling Club sectional tournament at the White Elephant alleys on Wednesday night. The teams that will roll are: Rosedale, Spartan, Hudson, and the Metropolitans. The teams that will roll are: Rosedale, Spartan, Hudson, and the Metropolitans.

The first contest in the Eastern industrial championship tournament, which will be a four-day affair, will be between the Rosedale and the Spartan. The teams that will roll are: Rosedale, Spartan, Hudson, and the Metropolitans.

The first contest in the Eastern industrial championship tournament, which will be a four-day affair, will be between the Rosedale and the Spartan. The teams that will roll are: Rosedale, Spartan, Hudson, and the Metropolitans.

Atkinson Auto School